



SOUTHEAST NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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March 6th, 1994

Make A Difference Campaign Sunday!

Extraordinary!

That's the word used over and over for the Make a Difference Campaign. That is, it is not "just one more" campaign. It has a special, unusual, historic dimension. For it is a once-in-a-generation, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, eight years in the planning, to make for a new and dynamic future for the mission and witness of the United Church of Christ as it approaches a new century and new millennium.

The goal is to raise a minimum of \$30 million of new, over and above money for the caring ministries of our Church. Please study the materials mailed to every congregation which make the case, outlining the need which these funds will meet. For example: aging church buildings, in need of renovation and remodeling, including Native American churches and parsonages; the need for pastoral leaders to serve churches in ethnic and minority communities; assistance for ministerial students in a time of escalating seminary costs; the purchasing of land in the Sun Belt for new church starts; the need for endowment funds for assisting our mission into the 21st century; etc.

Because it is a once-in-a-lifetime campaign, those churches and members that let it pass by without responding to it *will not have a similar opportunity of such significance ever again. Therefore, the first Sunday in March, (March 6th), has been designated, "Make a Difference Sunday."*

The purpose of this special day is two-fold: to celebrate and pray for this extraordinary campaign and place it in the hearts and minds of the people; and to get on board, if a congregation is not one of the many which have already done so.

Some suggestions for observing Campaign Sunday:

- 1. Do a sermon on mission*
- 2. Include a bulletin insert, defining the campaign and stating the case for it*
- 3. Include the campaign in Moments of Concern*
- 4. Include the campaign in the Pastoral Prayer*
- 5. Use the two videos which state the case for the campaign during Church School ("One By One" and "Gift of a Lifetime")*
- 6. Put up posters announcing the campaign*

7. Name and announce your Local Church Campaign Team (and send the C-1 Form to Cleveland)

8. Distribute simple blank index cards on which persons may sign up as volunteers

Let every congregation in the SEC observe "Make A Difference Campaign Sunday" lest our people not be given an opportunity to participate in the extraordinary event!

John R. Lackey, SEC Campaign Director

Testimonials:

I have made a pledge to the Make a Difference Campaign because:

1. I am in covenant with the wider Church. This is my church, our church. That is, no "us and them" pronouns! We are partners together in the wider Church.

2. I, in some measure, try to be a caring person. I care about this world for which Christ died. My main means of showing my caring is through the mission, ministry, and witness of the United Church of Christ. Therefore, I want to make a difference in the ability of the UCC to do its work of caring in the world.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS VOTES 1ST STAGE PLANNING DEVELOPMENT FOR CONFERENCE RETREAT CENTER

Subcommittees will be working on all aspects of feasibility issues. For information and to volunteer your efforts, contact Floyd Carmack, 404/478-1563.

CLERGY RETREAT

Mark your calendar for April 18-21, 1994. To be held at the Assembly Grounds of the Southern Conference in Blowing Rock, NC. Keynote speaker and discussion leader will be Rev. David Buttrick of Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.

Annual Meeting Committee Chooses "Joy" as '94 Theme

NOTICE: '94 Annual Meeting will be June 3-5 at Cullman, Alabama. Registration Forms and other information will be mailed to the church.

"Joy in Christ: Reclaim ... Rekindle ... Release"

is the theme chosen for the 1994 Southeast Conference Annual Meeting to be held at St. John's United Church of Christ in Cullman, Alabama, on June 3-5, 1994.

Keynoters will be the Rev. Mary Sue Gast, Director of the Coordinating Center for Women, UCC and the Rev. Donald Gall, Iowa Conference Minister. The committee is also working on developing a comprehensive youth agenda and

program to run concurrently and cohesively with the Annual Meeting. Dr. Erna Bryant, moderator of the Conference, has made involvement of youth a priority for this Annual Meeting and will be contacting the moderators of each association within the Conference asking them to initiate and pursue at least partial funding of registration fees for all interested youth. Individual churches are also encouraged to underwrite youth involvement.

Because of the overwhelmingly positive response to last year's "Festival of Talents," a similar event is being planned for '94. All barbershop quartets, closet (shower?) singers, pianists, guitarists, comedians, storytellers, etc. are encouraged to bring their instruments and talents with them and, in fact, to contact Rev. Bob Peeples of Pleasant Hill, TN, who is coordinating the event on Friday evening this year. His address and phone number are P.O. Box 336, Pleasant Hill, TN 38578; (615) 277-5197.

"I'm even willing to have snitches call me," said Bob. "If you know someone who has a talent, let me know. I'll give them a call and invite them to be a part of the cabaret. Last year's festival was a showcase of the Southeast Conference's great diversity of talent. We need people who are willing to give testimony to the joy in their life through song and dance and jokes and poetry and, most of all, the heart. I don't expect to be let down."

"We are really encouraging people to make their registrations early," said Planning Committee Co-Chair Debbie Douglas. "The folk at St. John's are making arrangements for caterers and stuffing registration bags and counting chairs and tables. We need to give them all the consideration and lead time that we possibly can. Everyone should be registered before May 2 so that we can do that."

"St. John's was most gracious in their invitation to host the Annual Meeting," said Co-Chair James Norris. "They have already done, and will continue to do, yeoman's duty in this process. We are all very grateful."

The Annual Meeting Planning Committee has been meeting since July on the almost year-long process of planning for over 200 delegates, visitors and clergy from the Conference's nearly 80 churches.

Registration materials and more complete information will be mailed in February. Pastors and moderators or presidents of each church are encouraged to post and publicize the Annual Meeting as soon as possible.

**LOOK AT THIS ... LOOK AT THIS ... LOOK AT THIS
... LOOK AT THIS ... LOOK AT THIS ... LOOK AT
THIS ...**

April 1st is the deadline

for applications for Hunger Action and Just Peace money that is administered by the Conference. This money is the portion of those Special Offerings that is retained at the Conference level.

Application forms and additional information are available at the SEC office or from Rev. Dorothy Gager, Chair of Christian Social Justice Commission, 3315 Acklen Avenue, Nashville, TN 37212. (phone: 615-292-0934).

CONFERENCE COMMENTS:

Conference Minister's Message

Three brief items to share with you. First, gratitude to you for the sabbatical time, which provided rest and renewal. Plan such a time for your pastor.

I was reminded of how our nurture comes, in part, by being in touch with our roots. For example: the daily prayer of James Myers' mother when he was growing up shaped his life, faith and ministry; I want to use it for my devotions:

*O Thou in whose presence my soul takes delight,
On whom in affliction I call,
My comfort by day and my song in the night,
My hope, my salvation, my all.*

What anchoring place of memory nurtures your faith identity and spiritual shaping? Be with God daily in the sanctuary of your soul.

Lastly, the Gwinnett Community Church, Jerry O'Connor, pastor, took a bold step in their life when they celebrated their life and heritage, and voted to dissolve as a congregation. Such decisions are never easy, but these very committed persons could give thanks to God and be able to move into God's new future. Of course they had great hope and expectation, but, with no blame, they offered to God their commitment and community, their memories and shared celebrations, for God to bless and to use. We all have much to thank the pastor and church for, as they learned much that can be instructive to other churches. For the Gwinnett UCC we lift our hands in praise, support and gratitude, that we may commit ourselves more fully to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ through strong communities of faith.

Sincerely,
Roger Knight

Let's "Do A New Thing"

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

--Isaiah 43:19

Since 1949, the "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering has provided vital testimony that what we do together is more powerful than what we can achieve as single individuals. OGHS offers us a way to stand amid the pains of the world and

neither hide nor become numb. Participation in OGHS can provide for us opportunities to identify and empathize with those who suffer and make a concrete response to those in need. Our OGHS offering dollars combat famine, disease, calamity, and illiteracy in more than 70 counties, including the United States. OGHS gifts are at work with flood victims in the Midwest, Europe and Bangladesh, with earthquake victims in India and California. Our money supports long-term development and assists some of the world's 17 million refugees, half of which are children. Together, through out gifts to OGHS, we build a world were the littlest among us finds peace, security and fulfillment. Together we can be a part of the new thing God is doing in our midst.

This year's material, based on Isaiah 43:19, includes a 3+ minute (VHS) and is available for loan/use from the Southeast Conference Office, (404) 607-1993; or from UCBWM Corporate Board members Rev. Karl K. Whiteman, (615) 967-0180; Ms. Vanessa Robbs, (615) 499-3047; or Rev. Frances Bryant-Lowery, (404) 439-5694.

Support *OGHS!* *YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!!*

Educational Workshops

Designed to train your people in the areas of communication!

The Office of Communication, UCC, can design an educational event to serve your specialized need and present it at your annual meeting; a special meeting; or over a course of a few days throughout your conference.

The workshops are offered to conferences, associations, clergy associations, church clusters and other configurations. The recommended time for a workshop is 2-3 hours with a minimum of 15 participants.

The Office of Communication provides the workshop leader and resource materials for each workshop. The workshop coordinator and the workshop leader will confirm dates, workshops, registration fee, travel and lodging. As workshop coordinator, your obligation will be to register participants, secure the location, and provide hospitality for the event.

Workshops available are:

- 1. Communicating the Message Internally & Externally**
- 2. Advertising & Marketing Strategies**
- 3. Producing Good Newsletters** (*Beginners & Advanced*)
- 4. Public Relations**
- 5. Communications the Message with Videos**
- 6. How to Use the Telephone Effectively**
- 7. Introduction to the Computer Network, UCChristNet**

For more information, write to Charlene J. Smith, Education/Marketing Coordinator, UCC Office of Communication, 700 Prospect Avenue, 8th Floor, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100; FAX, (216) 736-2223.

OCWM RECEIPTS 1993

Ala/Tenn Association

	10/1-12/31/93	1993
Alpine, King's Chapel	0.00	0.00
Athens, Trinity Congregational	0.00	0.00
Belvidere, 1st UC	1,548.15	6,399.55
Birmingham, 1st Congregational	1,900.00	3,950.00
Birmingham, Pilgrim	4,500.00	5,400.00
Chattanooga, 1st CC	0.00	0.00
Chattanooga, Pilgrim	4,181.26	15,795.00
Chattanooga, Sheares	0.00	477.00
Crossville, UCC	850.00	3,300.00
Cullman, St. John's	3,100.00	6,875.00
Deer Lodge, Congregational	300.00	1,200.00
Fairfield Glade, CC	875.00	3,500.00
Garden City Congregational	115.50	462.00
Glenmary, Congregational Christian	400.00	400.00
Hanceville, Mtn. Grove	0.00	150.00
Knoxville, Church of the Savior	0.00	0.00
Marion, 1st Congregational	0.00	100.00
Montgomery, First	0.00	1,900.00
Nashville, 1st UC	2,000.00	6,000.00
Nashville, Brookmeade	675.00	900.00
Nashville, Howard	600.00	600.00
Pleasant Hill, CC	6,934.50	18,600.00
Robbins, Barton Chapel	300.00	300.00
Sweetwater, First	.00	250.00
Talladega, Union UCC	150.00	150.00
United Church-Huntsville	3,000.00	9,000.00
Waverly, UCC	80.00	160.00
	31,509.41	85,968.55

East Al/W Ga

Alex City, First	0.00	0.00
Columbus, United	0.00	0.00
Dadeville, Elder	355.00	355.00
E. Tallassee, CC	0.00	114.00
Eclectic, Watson's Chapel	0.00	0.00
Five Pts., State Line	0.00	0.00
LaFayette, Pleasant Grove	260.00	549.00
LaGrange, Hillside	0.00	0.00
LaGrange, United	0.00	33.00
Lanett	1,519.00	1,519.00
Langdale	315.00	315.00
Phenix City, Russell Woods	0.00	855.00

Pine Forest	0.00	0.00
Pine Mtn., Oak Grove	0.00	790.00
Roanoke, Bethany	0.00	0.00
Roanoke, Antioch	0.00	570.00
Roanoke, First	0.00	0.00
Roanoke, Forest Home	0.00	0.00
Roanoke, New Hope	0.00	570.00
Roanoke, North Main	380.00	760.00
Roanoke, Rock Stand	0.00	0.00
Valley, Todd Congregational	0.00	0.00
Wadley, Corinth Christian	238.00	476.00
Wedowee, Noon Day	0.00	0.00
West Point, Bethel	0.00	0.00
Woodbury, Jones Chapel	876.00	2,622.00
	3,943.00	9,528.00

Ga.-S. Carolina

Atlanta, Carroll Heights	0.00	0.00
Atlanta, Central	6,375.00	25,500.00
Atlanta, First	8,250.00	13,750.00
Atlanta, Rush	0.00	1,000.00
Atlanta, Southwest	0.00	0.00
Atlanta, UCC	0.00	0.00
Barnesville, Fredonia	0.00	0.00
Beachton, Evergreen	0.00	495.00
Braselton, Macedonia	0.00	0.00
Buford, Duncan's Creek	0.00	0.00
Central Cong. Women	0.00	200.00
Charleston, Circular	1,333.36	4,000.00
Charleston, Plymouth	0.00	1,350.00
Columbia, Pilgrim	0.00	0.00
Demorest, Federated	240.71	470.24
Dewy Rose, Liberty	0.00	0.00
Ga.-S.C. Association	0.00	200.00
Jonesboro, Trinity	1,725.00	6,900.00
Lilburn, Gwinnett Community	500.00	1,500.00
Macon, 1st Congregational	0.00	0.00
Marietta, Pilgrimage	1,500.00	2,250.00
Midway, Congregational Church	200.00	700.00
Savannah, First	600.00	1,400.00
Thomasville, Bethany	0.00	100.00
	20,724.07	59,815.24

So. Ala-N.W. Fla.

Andalusia, Antioch	700.00	1,300.00
Andalusia, First CC	55.00	470.00
Baker, Good Hope	0.00	0.00
Baker, Pyron	0.00	0.00
Bonifay, New Effort	0.00	0.00
Brantley, Indian Creek	0.00	0.00
Clio, New Hope	150.00	450.00
Headland, Blackwood CC	0.00	0.00
	905.00	2,220.00

New Pastor's Journal

As we ring in the new year I am reminded of the Lord's many blessings. The beginning of 1994 marks the first year and one half that Angelle and I have been in Chattanooga, TN. This amount of time is approximately half of the three years of Jesus of Nazareth's ministry. It helps to be mindful that during Christ's short ministry, He too was faced with many challenges. Of the recorded twelve disciples, one was a traitor, all seemed to keep Jesus at arm's length, and all had their troubles with recognizes the power and glory in Jesus' person. At this time the gathering faithful of Sheares Memorial UCC number thirteen people. Throughout this first year and one half, questions and doubts have persisted. When I came to Chattanooga, one of the primary families that wanted to help start the new church had moved because of a job promotion. Another primary family who attended our inaugural worship, moved for the same reason.

Yet, following our period of Bible study, which began in the home of Rev. Andrew Frierson, we held our inaugural worship February 28, 1993.

We began with tremendous support from the Pleasant Hill community, First United, Sweetwater; First Congregational Christian, Birmingham; and the wider Chattanooga community. And the Holy Spirit has been our constant friend. Others around the Conference have been part of our Umoja Partners program. Our newest partner, Liberty Chapel UCC, Moncure, NC, sent a cash donation and old choir robes. God has been good to us! We gave our first OCWM gift during the year of over \$500.

In January we will begin a new "hatchback ministry." Through this ministry we shall worship and serve communion all over Chattanooga! I remind myself often that I came to Chattanooga because I love our church!

What are your lingering doubts about our new church in Chattanooga? What are your lingering questions? Release them because God is blessing our efforts to birth this new church. Journey with us by becoming a Umoja Partner. The Ala.-Tenn. Association is now a partner. Support Ala.-Tenn. and you will help our new ministry to grow. Keep Sheares Memorial in your prayers and we know all our tomorrows will be bright ones!

Send all correspondence to the church to:
Sheares Memorial UCC

P.O. Box 91, Chattanooga, TN 37401-0091
(615) 855-2004 (church)
(615) 886-9821 (Pastor's home)

The Church & Human Sexuality

Dr. James B. Nelson comes to the Southeast Conference March 21-22, 1994 to share his wisdom in the field of Human Sexuality with clergy, laity and the academic community at Emory University Medical School and Candler Theological Seminary.

"The Church and Human Sexuality" will be the topic of Dr. Nelson's lecture which is an open meeting for clergy, laity and the public on Monday evening, March 21 at 7:00 P.M. in the sanctuary of Central UCC, 2676 Clairmont Road, Atlanta, GA. On Tuesday, March 22, he will speak at Emory University addressing the issue of "Body Theology" at a Bio-Medical Forum in the morning and in the afternoon he will address issues of "Human Sexuality" at Candler Theological Seminary. It is anticipated that the afternoon lecture at Candler will be open to the public.

Phone the SEC office at (404) 607-1993 or Jerry O'Connor at (404) 418-0478 for more details.

In Memoriam: Warren Blankenhorn, 1924-1993

Our brother and friend, Warren Blankenhorn, released his hold on Christ's yoke Friday, December 31, 1993, passing from the Church Militant to the Church Triumphant. We will surely miss him, but Heaven is enriched with his presence.

Warren Blankenhorn—a great-souled minister of the Gospel, a pastor to local churches and a pastor to pastors, formerly the Associate Minister of the Southeast Conference of the UCC, and of late, the Moderator of the East Alabama-West Georgia Association. As was Jesus, Warren was driven by a tireless commitment to God's work.

Over the last 30 years, he must have traveled a million miles, going from church to church and from committee meetings to ministerial workshops he had arranged and sponsored.

Warren's commitment was enhanced by an imaginative sense of humor—he found a sudden and startling golden lining in every sad and difficult circumstance. He often picked apart stuffy and pompous displays of academic pride—he founded the apocryphal Old Thermometer University, with its enlightened course on "The Care and Feeding of Ministers" and at Annual Conference sessions, Ole Thermometer U conferred spurious honorary degrees on unsuspecting Conference and National Staff personnel.

And what more can I say in measuring this man, Warren Blankenhorn? Much more! However, the whole measurement will surely be told when this thing called time ends and the Book of Life is opened and all thoughts, words, and deeds

are fully revealed. Then our Lord will proclaim to the Father, the holy angels, and the redeemed of all times—pointing to Warren Blankenhorn.

David I. Naglee, Minister
LaGrange United Church

NOTE: Warren served as staff in the SEC for 17 years, retiring as Associate Conference Minister in 1989. Surviving Warren are his wife Evelyn and two daughters. Funeral services were held on January 2. A scholarship is being established in his honor.

Pastoral Changes for '94

New:

John Gill to Church of the Savior, Knoxville, TN
Robert Kurtz to St. John's, Cullman, AL
Karl Whiteman to First United Church, Belvidere, TN
Paul Moore to Trinity, Athens, AL

Interims:

Nashville, TN, First—Bronson Netterville
Atlanta, GA, First—Norman Rates
Montgomery, AL, First—David Morrow
Chattanooga, TN, Pilgrim—Jack Yates

Resignations/Departures:

Montgomery, AL, First—Paul Johnson, August 1993
Barnesville, GA, Fredonia—David Cleaver-Bartholomew, September 1993
Roanoke, AL, New Hope—Winston Clark, December 1993
Chattanooga, TN, Pilgrim—James Smalley, December 1993
Clio, AL, New Hope—Winston Clark, December 1993
Lilburn, GA, Gwinnett Community—Gerald O'Connor, January 1994
Birmingham, AL, First—James Myers, January 1994
Baker, FL, Good Hope—Charles Melvin, February 1994

Who & What is Women in Mission?

The Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society for the UCC was established in 1987 to address the concerns of women through spiritual growth, advocacy communication, and coordinated program development. The Center developed a national resource-sharing network called UCC Women in Mission. Local churches or individuals can join UCC Women in Mission to help support the continuing work and missions of CCW, while receiving valuable information about the mission of the wider church. In addition, partners receive CCW's quarterly journal, *Common Lot*, which includes articles written by women on a variety of issues.

Membership is \$18 for individuals and \$60 for a group. The group partners receive 25 copies of *Common Lot*, resources and information from the wider church, a 40% discount on Pilgrim Press orders and a partnership with a group of concerned women, sharing a vision of equality and justice.

Call CCW at (216) 736-2150 for information or pick up forms. Our Southeast Conference Women's Commission highly recommends the resources available through the Coordinating Center. *We know that you will find them both informative and useful with your women's fellowship groups. Please join today!*

A Reminder ... FAITHWORKS94

6 Months Away! ... January 14, 1994 ... Register NOW!!!

The Orientation and Educational Information Booklet being edited by Edith Guffey will soon be sent to all those who have registered. It will list the educational opportunities and will be on a "first come, first served" basis. SO ... fill out the RESPONSE FORM and return it as soon as possible.

There will be information concerning transportation from the Indianapolis Airport to Purdue University. Financial assistance in the form of Travel Grants is available. Based on distance from Indianapolis, more than 700 miles, and size of conference, 11 grants of \$50 each have been allotted to SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE. Get registration material from the national office, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115-1100; the Conference Office; or the Coordinator's Office (Harry Manon), P.O. Box 581, Pleasant Hill, TN 38578. ***REGISTER NOW!!!***

Announcing the 3rd Annual Clinical Ethics Training Program for Clergy August 8-12, 1994

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

The Program's four major components:

Experiential – each of three mornings with medical teams;

Process – small group discussions focused on the clinical dynamics;

Didactic – decision-making in the Jewish and Christian traditions;

Panel Discussions.

For more information: Stuart G. Finder, Ph.D., Center for Clinical and Research Ethics, CCC-5319 Medical Center North, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN 37232-2351 or call (615) 322-2252.

Co-sponsored by Vanderbilt's Center for Clinical and Research Ethics and the Vanderbilt Divinity School.

Your Health Care

Too Soon to Compromise

Everyone agrees we need a new health care system ... but, what will that system look like?

QUESTIONS ... QUESTIONS ... QUESTIONS ...

A new Office of Communications video helps you find the answers! The 26-minute VHS video, "Your Health Care: Too Soon to Compromise," evaluates the three most prominent health care reform options. Special price \$15, plus \$2.50 shipping and handling. Request a health care resource and information packet, free of charge. Order your copy now because with your health care, it is too soon to compromise! Send your check now to UCC Office of Communication. Attn: Health Care Video, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. For more information, call Charlene J. Smith at (216) 736-2224.

Concerned About National Peace & Social Justice?

Read on ...

The Southeast Conference Commission on Christian Social Justice has begun a SEC Social Justice Network to spread information and reduce isolation among people in the Southeast who are concerned with matters of social justice.

The first mailing of its quarterly newsletter is scheduled for the end of January 1994, and will go to all individuals in the SEC who are on the national Peace and Justice Network of the Office for Church in Society. This newsletter contains information about mechanisms for applying for Hunger Action and Just Peace funds available through the SEC, reports on a project that receives UCC funding, resource materials, and more.

Anyone interested in being added to this network should inquire at the SEC Social Justice Network, Southeast Conference, United Church of Christ, 756 West Peachtree Street N.W., Atlanta, GA 30308; (404) 607-1993.

We've a Story to Tell! Stewardship at its Best.

One evening I received a phone call from the Rev. Tim Morrison, pastor of Pilgrimage UCC in Marietta, Georgia. He proceeded to tell me a fascinating story of stewardship in the church he serves. He knew I, as Chair of the Stewardship and Mission Commission, would be interested. He was right, and it is a story to tell to the churches!

WIN: Tim, previously you have referred to a particular stewardship program by name. What it is called? Is it basically a prepared program, and where may it be obtained?

TIM: The name of the stewardship program is Consecrating Stewards. It was developed and written by Earl Miller. For many years, Earl served on the Stewardship Council of the UCC, and now served on the staff of the Ohio Conference. Earl introduced the "Consecration Sunday Stewardship" program.

Several congregations used it successfully. There is a time line to follow, sample with resource material and other charts and ideas. However, the program calls for and needs the local touch and local information to make the process relevant. Consecrating Stewards is available through United Church Resources.

WIN: Have you used Consecrated Stewards successfully?

TIM: We used it my last two years in Suffield with increases of 20% and 15%. At Marietta in 1992, for the 1993 budget, we received 64 pledges totaling \$84,360. On consecration Sunday '93, we received toward the 1994 budget, 45 pledges totaling \$89,500. The financial secretary projected a potential total estimate of giving income for 1994 of \$108,000, a 28% increase. When the stewardship committee chair made his announcement, there was a moment of stunned silence, then an explosion of applause and laughter. Smiles were on everyone's faces. Many shook their heads in disbelief but we had the figures in black and white. Subsequent follow-up has us on target for the projected figure, with about the same number of total pledges as last year. The membership of Pilgrimage is about 150.

WIN: This may be an unnecessary question, Tim, but do you ... and the leaders of the church, see signs that the Consecrating Stewards program has affected the life of the church in ways other than financial?

TIM: Consecrating Stewards has enabled us to truly believe in ourselves and what we can do if we set our minds and hearts to the task. Sharing with, and working with Amistad these past six months has inspired us to see what a small group of faithful and dedicated Christians can achieve.

Flora Wilson Bridges feels that without being "in your face" with others, we are comfortable in talking about the Spirit working in our lives, and recognizing that God has made things happen.

We were three months behind in our mortgage payment to UCBHM. We believed that after our Fallfest we would be able to make October, November and December payments earlier than planned and chose to increase our payment \$500/month beyond what we had budgeted. People are already contributing to the mortgage reduction at an unanticipated rate. The "Birthday/Anniversary Challenge," all of which goes to the mortgage fund increases. Voluntary additional gifts came to the mortgage fund. Our stewardship campaign enabled us to earmark about \$22,000 toward our mortgage of \$42,500 and we have yet to begin our capital funds campaign for the mortgage. We intend to erase our entire mortgage of \$272,000 in a two-year period. Our mission outreach is expanding and OCWM giving increases. We increased our Christian Education budget.

It is ironic that we can say we are still being financially conservative in our income estimates with a 28% increase in anticipated pledge income.

For further information contact the Stewardship Commission, Rev. Winston Clark, chairman, or the Rev. Tim Morrison, pastor of Pilgrimage United Church of Christ, 3755 Sandy Plains Road, Marietta, GA 30066. Telephone: (404) 971-0007.

CONFERENCE CALENDAR, 1994

Feb. 6-12	UCC Women's Week (observed in local churches)
Mar. 2	Women's Commission, Shocco Springs, AL
Mar. 4-6	Southern Regional Orientation Session for New UCC Curriculum: Word Among Us – Simpsonwood
Mar. 6	Make-A-Difference Sunday (observed in local churches)
Mar. 21-22	Jim Nelson Visit – "Sexuality"
Apr. 8-9	Board of Directors Meeting, Cullman, AL
Apr. 18-21	Clergy Retreat, Blowing Rock, NC
Apr. 30	Sister to Sister, Atlanta
Jun. 3-5	Annual Meeting of SEC, St. John's UCC – Cullman, AL
July 2-6	Faith Works – Harry Manon, Conference Coordinator, Purdue Univ. – West Lafayette, IN
Aug. 7-13	Iowa/SEC Youth Leadership Training Camp
Sep. 9-10	AL/TN Association Annual Meeting
Sep. 16-17	GA/SC Association Annual Meeting
Sep. 23-24	Board of Directors Meeting
Oct. 1	SoAL/NWFL Association Annual Meeting
Oct. 7-9	Southeast Women's Retreat – Shocco Springs, AL
Oct. 15	EAL/WGA Association Annual Meeting

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

Published by the Southeast Conference

United Church of Christ

Conference Minister, Roger D. Knight

Associate Conference Minister, Mitchell C. Johnson

Office Administrator, Barbara O'Connor

Moderator, Dr. Erna Bryant

Vice Moderator, Richard Sales

Secretary, Miller Jordan

Treasurer, Lester Ariail

Alabama-Tennessee Association Moderator, William (Bill) Chew

East Alabama-West Georgia Association Moderator, Jimmy Pilkington

Georgia-South Carolina Association Moderator, Roger Vonland

South Alabama-Northwest Florida Association Moderator, Jim Courtney

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